

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 AID-05 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-12 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

CIEP-03 SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7575

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: SUGAR SUPPLIES FOR THE UK

REF: EC BRUSSELS 7292

1. ACCORDING TO A UK PERM REP SOURCE THE LABOR GOVERNMENT

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HAS NOW LOST ITS ENTHUSIASM FOR A BILATERAL LONG-TERM UK-

AUSTRALIAN SUGAR AGREEMENT ALONG THE LINES PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED. THE AUSTRALIANS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN VERY DIFFICULT ON CONDITIONS OF THE AGREEMENT. ESPECIALLY PRICES AND THE AVOIDANCE OF EC LEVIES. OUR SOURCE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT A DECISION TO DROP THE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA AND ACCEPT EC AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER LARDINOIS' PROPOSAL (TO SUBSIDIZE SUGAR IMPORTS INTO THE UK IN ORDER TO INSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES; REFTEL) WOULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL AFTER THE BRITISH ELECTIONS.

2. SOURCES IN THE AUSTRALIAN MISSION, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT THE UK HAS ALREADY IN FACT DECIDED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO LARDINOIS' PROPOSAL. THEY SAY THAT TWO BRITISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS VISITED BRUSSELS LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF THE LARDINOIS SCHEME WHICH LARDINOIS HAD UNTIL THEN DESCRIBED ONLY IN THE BROADEST TERMS. (THE EC COUNCIL WOULD HAVE TO APPROVE THE LARDINOIS PROPOSAL TO MAKE IT A FORMAL EC OFFER.) OUR AUSTRALIAN SOURCES SAY THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD BE WILLING TO FURNISH TO THE COMMUNITY THE SUGAR FOR BRITAIN UNDER THE LARDINOIS PROPOSAL, PROVIDED THAT THE ARRANGEMENT IS VALID FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND PROVIDED THAT THE PROSPECT OF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT DOES NOT CAUSE DIFFICULTIES IN AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBER STATES. MYERSON

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Message Attributes

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